

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : Unassigned (**Divisional of 09/981,807**)  
Applicants : Tetsuya WATANABE et al.  
Title : SHAFT SEALING APPARATUS  
Filed : November 24, 2003  
  
Art Unit : Unknown  
Examiner : Unknown  
  
Docket No. : 36595-199008  
Customer No. : 26694  
  
Date: : November 24, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Preliminary Amendment**

Applicants requests the entry of the following amendment prior to the examination of the above-identified application:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.